

THE INSTITUTIONAL WORKSHOP.

PADDINGTON GREEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

THE attendance at the annual meeting on May 1st was both representative and numerous, and the chairman, Mr. George Hanbury, contrasted it with justifiable pride with those of other and larger hospitals, when scarcely a dozen people were present. The board-room, where the meeting took place, was tastefully decorated with flowers and plants.

The past year has been an eventful one for the hospital, for it has seen the purchase of a convalescent home at "Fair View," Upton Road, Slough, at a cost of £1,200. The lease, at £75 a year ground rent, has 62 years to run, and includes "Upton House," which is let for the like amount. The sanitary and other improvements that were found necessary involved a cost of upwards of £600. The new home is situated about a mile from Slough Station and has behind it a large garden surrounded by a red-brick wall. Miss Anderson, who for eighteen years has been matron of the hospital, having been compelled to relinquish this post on account of ill-health, has taken up the lighter work of matron of the new convalescent home. Miss S. Biddulph Pinchard succeeds Miss Anderson as matron of the hospital.

Mr. George Hanbury, having taken the chair, Mr. C. W. Empson, the hon. secretary, read the report, from which it appeared that the ordinary income for the year showed a small improvement, there being an increase of nearly £66 in annual subscriptions. The expenditure had, however, more than proportionately risen, the numbers of both in- and out-patients being larger than in the previous year.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report, and went on at once to speak of the new convalescent home, and to point out how fortunate they had been in securing a house that was so entirely suitable to them at so moderate a cost. Only a few days ago, said Mr. Hanbury, he had paid a visit to the home, and was delighted to see the children enjoying themselves in the large garden. The home had never been formally opened, but they would be very glad to see any visitors who liked to go down and inspect it.

During the past year the hospital had been closed for a few weeks on account of typhoid fever and measles, and although it was open again now, yet they could not allow strangers to visit on account of the small-pox.

The Chairman pleaded earnestly for help towards the maintenance of the new convalescent home, so that it might not become a drag upon the hospital. The parents of the children paid something towards their support, and both they and their children keenly appreciated the benefits they derived from it; in fact, the only danger was lest the children should become too fond of the home, and be unwilling to leave it.

The finances of the hospital were not in a very satisfactory condition, but then, as the Chairman went on to remark, that was the usual state of things with regard to the finances of all hospitals. The war and the increase in the income-tax had affected everyone and in consequence they were considerably in debt to their bankers. Much had been done by many kind friends in the way of raising money by entertainments, but what the hospital really needed were two or three large legacies. Several had already been promised and solicitors had offered to mention the hospital to their clients, but none had as yet been received. There was no reason why such gifts should not be made during the lifetime of the donor, and indeed this would be a far more satisfactory arrangement.

Sir T. Fowell Buxton, G.C.M.G., who seconded the motion, spoke of the very pleasant impression left upon his mind by a visit to the wards of the hospital. He noticed above all how restful and happy the children appeared to be, and what perfect sympathy there existed between them and their nurses. In fact the whole atmosphere of the place was sympathetic and harmonious; the walls with their pretty and artistic pictures, and the flowers in such rich abundance. There were one or two little ones who could not put a name to the bluebells or daffodils, but that was because they had not been in the hospital long.

The Rev. M. R. Neligan, M.A., Vicar of St. Stephens, Westbourne Park, who was the next speaker, expressed it as his opinion, after reading the report, that the hospital did not receive sufficient support from the districts of Paddington and Kilburn. Out of the 16 collections that had been made on behalf of the hospital, only nine were from local places of worship. It certainly seemed that a greater effort should be made to interest people, and especially children, in the work of the hospital. It was particularly gratifying to notice that the payments made by in- and out-patients amounted to nearly £325, which showed how active an interest they were taking in the work.

Referring to the special cots that had been founded in memory of departed friends and relatives, Mr. Neligan said he considered one of the duties most commonly overlooked by people in this country was that of giving thanks for the dear ones who had been spared to them. What could be more fitting than that the parents of a child who had just been given back to them, after a severe illness, should dedicate a cot in this hospital as a thank-offering?

Votes of thanks to the honorary officers, and to the Chairman, having been passed, the proceedings terminated.

THE MILLER HOSPITAL, GREENWICH.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Miller Hospital and Royal Kent Dispensary was held on Tuesday evening, April 29th, and although about 1,000 notices had been sent out to the governors, only some seventeen of the committee attended, this being about 21 per cent. of the number serving. A spirit of unanimity and cordiality pervaded the meeting, which was presided over for the first time by the Mayor of Greenwich, Ion Hamilton Benn, Esq., J.P., who has recently taken up the cause of the hospital, and from whose interest great things are anticipated.

In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman said the record of the past year's work showed that in every

respect there was improvement; numbers, work, and money all showed an increase. Subscriptions seemed to have fairly balanced the outgoings.

LOCAL SUPPORT.

He believed there were in the neighbourhood numbers of generous people, and that, although the metropolitan hospitals received a large amount of support annually from Greenwich and the neighbouring boroughs, yet if the work of the Miller Hospital were brought home to the people of Blackheath, Charlton, Kidbrook, etc., additional help might be obtained. He would suggest to the committee that some way might be found of bringing the needs of the hospital

before them more fully than had been done in the past. He himself, until he came down to Greenwich and joined the borough council, had no knowledge of the hospital, otherwise, for many years past, a subscription from him might have been obtained. It was a hospital to be proud of, and he would urge that local hospitals had a claim on local people.

EXTENSION.

He hoped that next year's report would contain some particulars about the satisfactory progress in the building of the new wing. It was known to them all that the money collected at the Coronation festivities in Greenwich would be devoted to the Fund, and he was able to say that £1,750 had been already promised in addition to the £250 which the hospital had received direct from an anonymous donor.

PAYMENT BY PATIENTS.

The Mayor further said that a friend of his own had offered to give a substantial sum to the Building Fund if some system of small payments by out-patients were arranged—a system analogous to that in use at the London, Guy's, Poplar, and some other hospitals. He was not proposing to bring the matter formally before the committee, but merely to let them know that substantial assistance could be obtained, and to ask them to consider whether the plan could be adopted or not. Personally, he thought every encouragement should be given to the deserving poor, and he believed they themselves liked to pay something for the help they received. Of course the threepences at the London Hospital represented only a very small fraction of the benefit; still, they amounted to something like £1,500 a year. It had been suggested that King Edward's Fund and the other funds might reduce the amount of their grant if the system were introduced, but he believed those funds gave largely where the rule existed, and if the extension were built, he hoped they might look for a larger grant instead of a smaller one.

Mr. Councillor Sydney said the committee were very desirous to carry out the extension. The question raised by the chairman was a very difficult one, and he could promise that it should have their serious attention; but he understood King Edward's Fund made it a *sine qua non* that no charge should be made, and they had even to pay for the washing of patients' linen.

The Mayor said he appreciated the difficulty; but perhaps the committee might interview the council of King Edward's Fund, and find out their views.

A committee member remarked that "workpeople's contributions" amounted to £45 18s.; these were quite voluntary payments.

The senior surgeon, Dr. Charles H. Hartt, who, it was remarked, was one of the most regular of committee members in attendance at meetings, said the extension was greatly needed; the arrangements were by no means adequate to the growing requirements of the hospital. When he first came, there was no hospital nearer than Guy's, and broken limbs and typhoid cases had to bear the jolting over rough roads in order to obtain treatment. The work had grown enormously, and it had now become absolutely necessary to enlarge the Miller Hospital; the additional expense need not be very great in regard to staff; the two house surgeons could manage a hospital twice the size. The question of payment had come before the committee twenty years ago, and at that time it was not thought desirable to introduce it.

THE X-RAY DEPARTMENT.

A very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. J. J. Vezey, F.R.M.S., for his valuable work in the X-ray department, which had been enlarged as a memorial of the late Mr. Thomas More, senior surgeon, who founded it in 1896. It was well provided with instruments, including a high-frequency apparatus which was much in request. Demon-

strations to subscribers and friends were given in October, and these were largely attended. The average monthly attendances of patients numbered 58. By arrangement with medical men, private cases were treated, and the fees received covered all expenses in this branch. Although a layman, Mr. Vezey worked in entire harmony with the medical staff.

A special vote of thanks to the Press closed the proceedings.

THE STORY OF THE INSANE FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES.

ROYAL ASYLUM, ABERDEEN.

At this asylum the numbers rose from 841 to 887. There were 248 first admissions, 60 readmissions, 136 recoveries, 20 discharged relieved, and 81 died. The average number resident was 867, and the total number of persons under treatment was 1,135. The recoveries stand at 44.1 per cent. of the admissions, and the deaths at 9.3 per cent. on the average number resident, the former being decidedly high and the latter being about the average. Of the year's deaths 21 were [caused by cerebral or spinal diseases, 11 by consumption, and 21 by other affections of the lungs. Domestic troubles and mental anxiety are said to account for the insanity in 12 of the admissions, intemperance in drink for 36, hereditary influence for 93, and old age for 21. In 23 cases no cause was known. Large additions to the asylum have been finished and occupied, and the over-crowding entirely removed. These Royal Asylums of Scotland are really combinations of pauper and private asylums. They have for a long time conclusively proved the advantages accruing from this arrangement of treating the classes of patients, and yet it is only within the last few years that any attempt had been made in England to imitate them. At the Aberdeen Asylum private patients pay from £30 to £250 per annum. Paupers are charged £32. About 250 patients are of the private class.

CITY OF LONDON ASYLUM.

On January 1st the numbers were 460, and on December 31st they had risen to 512. There were 167 first admissions, 17 readmissions, 74 recoveries, 24 discharged relieved, and 31 died. The average number resident during the year was 498, and the total number under treatment was 643. Calculated on the admissions, the recoveries stand at the high percentage of 48.67, and the deaths are only 6.22 per cent. on the average number resident. Of the year's deaths, 15 were caused by cerebral and spinal diseases, 4 by consumption, and the only other thoracic disease-proving fatal was heart disease, of which 1 patient died. The insanity of those admitted was attributed to moral causes in 27 cases, to intemperance in drink in 26, to hereditary influence in 39, and in 34 there was no cause known. The greatest number of admissions occurred in July, and the lowest in December. When speaking of the death rate, and remarking on the immunity of the City of London Asylum from colitis, Dr. White says, "its predisposing causes are overcrowding, defective sanitation, and the lowered nerve tone of chronic insanity, and its chief exciting cause is uncontrolled constipation in gross feeders. In some asylums it is endemic, and from time to time becomes epidemic, when it appears to be infections from patient to patient; but seldom affects the staff." If we except Drs. Gemmel and Goodliffe, perhaps no asylum medical officer has more closely studied this disease than Dr. Legge, of Derby, and Dr. Barwise, the Medical Officer of Health, was associated with him in the investigation of